

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 /073 W

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R 161654Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9440

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BONN 06179

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR, UK, FR, WB, GW

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ALLIED-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ON BERLIN

REF: A) PARIS 9258; B) LONDON 5415; C) STATE 80715

1. IN US-UK-FRENCH AMBASSADORIAL MEETING APRIL 15 ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND NOTED THAT, WHILE THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE, THERE WERE HINTS FROM TIME TO TIME THAT THE SOVIETS MAY BE INTERESTED AT SOME POINT IN QUADRIpartite CONSULTATIONS UNDER THE FQP. RECALLING THAT FALIN AND YEFREMOV HAD MADE SUCH HINTS, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND EXPLAINED NEGATIVE US VIEW (REF C) AND ASKED WHETHER BRITISH OR FRENCH HAD ANY INDICATIONS THAT SOVIETS WERE THINKING OF CALLING FOR CONSULTATIONS.

2. AMBASSADOR HENDERSON (UK) RESPONDED THAT HE HAD NO SUCH INDICATION AND ADDED THAT UK VIEW IS THAT IT WOULD BE A GRAVE MISTAKE TO ENTER INTO QUADRIpartite DISCUSSIONS. HENDERSON SAID THAT IT SEEMED, HOWEVER, THAT

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THEN-AMBASSADOR SAUVAGNARGUES WAS SLIGHTLY INCLINED

TOWARD SUCH DISCUSSIONS ABOUT A YEAR AGO (IN WAKE OF FEA PROBLEMS).

3. AMBASSADOR WORMSER (FRANCE) SAID THAT AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV HAD IN COURSE OF APRIL 4 LUNCHEON DISCUSSION SAID THAT THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ADVANCE QUAD DISCUSSIONS ON QUESTION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF EC VOCATIONAL CENTER IN BERLIN. WORMSER ADDED THAT HE HAD NOT TAKEN UP THE POINT. HE SAID IF ABRASIMOV HAD SUGGESTED QUAD DISCUSSIONS HE WOULD HAVE RESPONDED BY SAYING HE WOULD NOTE AND REPORT. WORMSER SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW PARIS WOULD REACT OR WHAT HIS FOREIGN MINISTER'S CURRENT VIEWS ON SUBJECT ARE. AMBASSADOR HENDERSON SAID HE THOUGHT SAUVAGNARGUES' VIEW--EARLIER, AT LEAST--HAD BEEN THAT QUAD DISCUSSIONS WERE INEVITABLE AND NOT REALLY VERY DANGEROUS, BUT HE WONDERED WHETHER THIS VIEW MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN IN PART AT LEAST ATTRIBUTABLE TO FACT THAT EGON BAHR FAVORED SUCH DISCUSSIONS. AS FOR CURRENT FRG ATTITUDE, HENDERSON SAID HE THOUGHT BONN "BITTERLY OPPOSED" THE NOTION. HE NOTED THAT HIS IDEA OF HOLDING QUAD AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEONS (IN BERLIN) HAD GOTTEN A VERY COLD RECEPTION FROM FRG.

4. COMMENT: HENDERSON'S REMARKS ARE CONSISTENT WITH NEGATIVE BRITISH ATTITUDE TOWARD FOUR-POWER CONSULTATIONS AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY LONDON (REF B). WHILE FRENCH AMBASSADOR PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW PARIS' THINKING ON THE SUBJECT, HE IS STILL A RELATIVE NEWCOMER TO BERLIN PROBLEMS AND EMBASSY PARIS' REPORT (REF A) IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION THAT THE IDEA MAY NO LONGER HOLD MUCH APPEAL FOR SAUVAGNARGUES. WE ARE AWARE OF NO CURRENT GERMAN EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN HAVING FOUR-POWER DISCUSSIONS BUT WILL SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO POINT OUT THE PITFALLS AS SPELLED OUT IN REF C. AS FOR THE SOVIETS, WE WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE TO GO ALONG IF THEY SHOULD DECIDE FORMALLY TO INVOKE THE FQP. MEANWHILE, THE CURRENT ROUND SHOULD BE USEFUL IN MAKING CERTAIN THAT NONE OF THE ALLIES REACT POSITIVELY TO SOVIET FEELERS THAT AMOUNT TO LESS THAN AN UNEQUIVOCAL DEMAND FOR CONSULTATIONS.

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HILLENBRAND

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